(ii) Trade and goods movement along shipping lanes,

(iii) Sustained presence of Multinational Forces in IOR,

(iv) Asymmetric and Law Intensity Maritime Threats, and

(v) Economic offences from the sea.

(b) and (c) India's geographical position is astride the major shipping routes in the Indian Ocean Region. This necessitates continuous and sustained presence of and surveillance by its maritime assets in its territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone and other areas of maritime interest. India is also having regular interaction with the Indian Ocean Region littoral States. Cooperaiton with our maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement, platform signatures, exercises, long standing constructive engagement and coordinated patrols along International Maritime Boundaries, etc., in order to maintain good order at sea, is also a part of the strategy.

Defence officers joining private sector/MNCs

3712.SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Willt he Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many officers of defence forces have been quitting to join private sector and MNCs;

(b) if so, the details of officers who left defence forces during last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that there is no security risk to the country by their association with non-government organizations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Senior Officers of the Armed Forces are not permitted to negotiate for commercial employment in private sector while in service. Further, Officers of the rank of Colonel and above (and equivalent ranks in Navy and Air Force) are required to obtain permission of the Government before taking commercial employment within two years of the date of retirement. Before granting this permission the competent authorities have to satisfy themselves *inter-alia* that any official information, knowledge or contacts which the officer might have gained while in service would not be used to give the prospective

employer an unfair advantage. Also, appointments with companies/firms which operate in sensitive areas of defence procurements or which have subsidiary firms having contracts with Ministry of Defence as also appointments with foreign Government or foreign firms are not allowed.

However, defence officers have been seeking voluntary retirement and are resigning for various reasons including (a) supersession for promotion (b) being placed in a permanently low medical category (c) compassionate reasons, such as, looking after ailing parents/children/siblings, to look after ancestral property, attend to litigation etc. (d) failure to acquire minimum technical qualifications prescribed for promotion (e) increase in employment opportunities on the civil side.

Details of officers seeking discharge and whose applications were accepted during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Army		Navy		Air Force	
	Seeking Discharge	Approved for Discharge	Seeking Discharge	Approved for Discharge	Seeking Discharge	Approved for Discharge
2004	435	290	116	112	238	238
2005	536	365	176	168	284	171
2006	811	464	257	176	207	80

Human rights violations by army personnel in J and K

3713. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of human rights violations by army personnel in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) whether it is a fact that officers are involved in killing of innocent citizens in fake encounters;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted into these incidents;

(d) if so, the details of the findings; and

(e) the steps taken against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) A few complaints of alleged human rights violations and fake encounters by army